M'NAMARA FINDS PEKING EXTENDING ITS ATOM THREAT

Predicts Ability to Attack Nations in 700-Mile Range Within 2 or 3 Years

EARLIER VIEW REVISED

China Speeding Capacity to Back Words With Action, Congress Unit Is Told

By JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 7—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara predicted today that within two or three years Communist China would be capable of launching a nuclear attack on countries within 700 miles of China.

Testifying before the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, Mr. McNamara expressed grave concern that China's growing nuclear arsenal indicated an intent by Peking to back up its belligerent words with actions.

From his estimates, it appeared that the arsenal was growing much faster than American officials expected.

After the first Chinese nuclear test in October, 1964, Mr. McNamara insisted that the explosion of what he described as a primitive nuclear device posed no military threat and contended that it would be "many years" before the Chinese "obtain the capability to inflict

nuclear damage on this country or our arries."

U.S. Still Out of Range

Mr. McNamara repeated estimates that it would be a decade or more before China could make a nuclear attack on the United States.

He said he was particularly "disturbed" about the power that its growing arsenal had given to China to support the "aggressive statements of her leaders."

As an example of such "aggressive statements" Mr. Mc-Namara cited a policy declaration last fall by Defense Minister Lin Piao, setting forth the long-term objective of promoting "people's wars" throughout the Asian, African and American continents. On the basis of China's nuclear effort, it was Mr. McNamara's interpretation that these statements reflected a policy of aggressive intent and not just belligerent words.

Fulbright Sees Defense Idea

He noted that it had been pointed out that such statements were "but words, and words alone do not hurt us." But he reasoned that the fact that China, at considerable human and economic sacrifice, was developing a nuclear arsenal was an indication that it was moving "to support such words with instruments of war of the most terrible kind."

His statement appeared to rebut the repeated contention of Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, that China was "more ferocious" in words than in actions.

Asked later about Mr. Mc-Namara's observations, Senator Fulbright said he felt that the aggressive stand of the Chinese Reds "could just as well be because they fear attack by coun-

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tries on their border who have nuclear power." He remarked that it was "just as natural for a country to seek its own defense" as to build for aggression.

Asked if he included the United States among the nations on China's border with nuclear China's border with miclear weapons, Mr. Fulbright replied, "What do you consider 55,000 men in Korea?" While acknowledging that he did not know whether American troops in Korea were equipped with nuclear weapons he said he see clear weapons, he said he assumed that the forces there certainly would have access to them.'

The Army has announced the stationing in Korea of artillery pieces capable of firing nuclear

Missile Peril Indicated

mit it "to carry out aggression against weaker neighbors."

As China's nuclear capability the nonnuclear states against upon the nuclear powers to enducted livery capability that will permit it to attack neighboring countries within 500 to 700 miles.

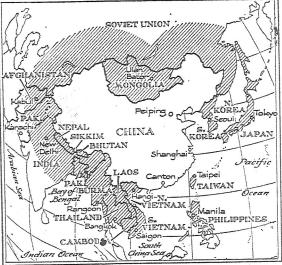
as possible."

As China's nuclear capability he nonnuclear states against upon the nuclear powers to enducted nuclear attack or large-scale force the guarantee.

But Mr. McNamara was less explicit on what form such protection against atomic at guarantees should take avent.

This range would include Japan. Taiwan, the Philippines, all of Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent as far west dian subcontinent as far west port of a nonproliferation officity how China would deliver the nuclear weapons, but he presumably was thinking of anissile capability. In his recent "military posture" presentation to Congress, he said China "probably has the capability to develop a medium-range ballistic missile." He also predicted that China "will predicted that China "will predicted that China "will prevent the spread of atomic "nuclear umbrella" offered by resident Johnson after China's first explosion, have not proved acceptable to many of the nonnuclear states.

Because of her policy of non-alignment, India, for example, predicted that China "will prevent the spread of atomic "nuclear umbrella" offered by the comprehensive program" to prevent the spread of atomic "nuclear umbrella" offered by the comprehensive program."



The New York Times

Defense Secretary McNamara predicted that Communist China would be able to launch nuclear attack within three years on nations 700 miles from China (diagonal shading).

Mr. McNamara said China's two atomic explosions thus far probably attempt to develop a weapons. A "fundamental part" by the Administration is for the were "but the foundation" for a nuclear arsenal that will permit it "to carry out aggression against weaker neighbors."

As China's nuclear capability prows, the Secretary noted nuclear attack or large-scale force the guarantee.

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the United States and Britain. At the same time, India has run into difficulties in persuading the Soviet Union to join in a guarantee that would be aimed primarily at China.

As a result, Mr. McNamara said, the Administration has been giving "careful consideration to the problem of further assurances to the nonnuclear powers" and discussing the matter with other states.

The Administration hopes to come up with a counterproposal for the suggestion of Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin of the Soviet Union in January that the non-proliferation treaty provides that the nuclear states would impose the signatories against protect the signatories against atomic attack.

The Soviet proposal has aroused considerable interest among the nonaligned states. But the Administration has reservations about it, partly be-cause of fear that this would lead to disclosure of the loca-tion of American atomic weapons and thus perhaps lead to pressure for withdrawal of American weapons from foreign bases.

March 8, 1966

to suggest that they should be